



.08 Fact Sheet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

.08 BAC Facts

- ## “BAC” stands for Blood Alcohol Concentration. BAC represents the amount of ethanol in a person’s bloodstream.
- ## New York State is the 37th state to adopt a .08 BAC limit for driving.
- ## Studies show that up to 40 lives could be saved per year in New York as a result of reducing the BAC level to .08.
- ## Drivers with a BAC of .08 are four times more likely to cause a crash than drivers with a .00% BAC. At .10 BAC, drivers are eight times more likely to cause a crash.
- ## A young male driver with .08 BAC can be up to 50 times more likely to die in a single-car crash than a driver with a .00 BAC.
- ## By lowering the legal BAC limit to .08%, statistics show that more than 1,600 additional DWI arrests will be made statewide over the next year
- ## An average 140-lb. female will reach a .08 BAC within one hour after consuming about three drinks. The average 170-lb. male will reach a .08 BAC within one hour after consuming about four drinks.

Alcohol Content and Impairment Facts

- ## Each of the following drinks contains an equal amount of alcohol:

1. 12-oz. can of beer at 5% alcohol content
2. 5-oz. glass of wine at 12% alcohol content
3. 1 ½-oz. shot of 80-proof liquor
4. 12-oz. wine cooler at 5% alcohol content

Alcohol content between products will vary considerably depending on container size and percentage of alcohol.

- ## The degree of impairment depends on four basic factors:

1. The amount you drink.
2. Whether you’ve eaten before or while drinking (food slows absorption).
3. Your body weight.
4. The length of time spent drinking.

Coffee cannot make someone sober. The person may be more awake, but just as drunk. Only time can make someone sober. It takes at least an hour per drink for the alcohol to leave the body’s system.

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New York Drunk Driving Statistics

- ☞ The most likely drivers to be killed in a drunk driving crash are males in their early 20's.
- ☞ The most frequently arrested drunk drivers are males in their 30's.
- ☞ In 2001 there were 315 drinking and driving related deaths in New York State.
- ☞ 45% of those killed in alcohol-related crashes are the driver.
- ☞ In 2002, more than \$20 million in fines were collected from convicted drunk drivers in New York.
- ☞ Nationally, three out of 10 people will be in an alcohol-related crash in their lifetime.

Costs Associated with Drunk Driving

- ☞ A DWI conviction can cost upwards of \$15,000 in fines, legal fees and increased insurance premiums.